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The following papers were read :

- On the Action of Lime on Soils, by Miss Jennie Detmers.
- On traces of the Mound Builders in Kansas, by B. F. Mudge.
- On Meteors between the sixth and thirteenth of August, by John Fraser.
- On Tornadoes, by John D. Parker.
- On the Composition of Comet's Tails, by F. W. Bardwell.
- On our Public Works, by William Tweeddale.
- On the Lepidoptera of Kansas, by F. H. Snow. (This paper was illustrated by a large collection of butterflies and moths, very neatly mounted in trays.)
- On Explosive Mixtures, by F. E. Stimpson.
- On Fossil Footprints in Osage county, by B. F. Mudge.
- On the Coleoptera of Kansas, by Edwin A. Popenoe.
- On the Climate of Kansas, by F. H. Snow.

The following public lectures were delivered:

- On Darwinism, by Peter McVicar, D. D.
- On John Dalton, or the Quaker Man of Science, by Charles Reynolds, D. D.

The following officers were elected for the current year :

President, Frank H. Snow ; Vice-Presidents, John A. Banfield, John D. Parker
Secretary, John Wherrell ; Treasurer, Robert J. Brown ; Curators, Frank H. Snow, B. F. Mudge, and Edwin A. Popenoe.

The following commissions were confirmed for the current year:

- Geology — B. F. Mudge.
- Ornithology — F. H. Snow.
- Entomology — F. H. Snow, Edwin A. Popenoe.
- Language — D. H. Robinson, J. H. Lee.
- Engineering — F. W. Bardwell.
- Technology — F. E. Stimpson.
- Astronomy — John Fraser.
- Meteorology — John D. Parker.
- Botany — J. H. Carruth, John Wherrell, F. H. Snow.
- Mineralogy — W. K. Kedzie.
- Chemistry — William H. Saunders.

Society adjourned to meet Monday evening, September 7, 1874,
at Topeka.

SYNOPSIS OF PAPERS.

TRACES OF THE MOUND BUILDERS IN KANSAS.

BY B. F. MUDGE.

Few traces of the old mound builders are found after passing fifty miles west of the Mississippi river. No mounds have been found in Kansas, and the few traces of their villages are very obscure. The object of this paper is to draw attention to the subject, that others may be induced to notice and record any fact within the

bounds of our State which will throw light on the existence of this ancient race.

About half a mile from the crossing of the old Santa Fe trail at Cow creek, in Rice county, are seen the remains of pottery, etc., showing that at least a temporary village formerly existed at that spot. The area covered is small, and the pottery very fragmentary.

In the extreme northeastern corner of Riley county, on a farm, we found fragments of pottery, arrow heads and other stone implements, and also the clippings of stone left where the implements were made. The area covered over twenty acres, and is a very pleasant locality for a small village. There is a fine spring near, and plenty of running water at all seasons in the creek. This locality was drawn to my notice by J. M. Morris, Esq., county treasurer, who presented me with fragments of various utensils collected from the spot.

But the most important locality seen by us in Kansas lies not far from Asher creek, on the southwesterly side of the Solomon river, in Cloud county. The locality is on a rolling prairie, just above the river bottom, which is here quite narrow. The most marked feature of this village is the pottery, where their domestic articles were manufactured. It (the pottery) covers an area from one-fourth to half an acre, rising irregularly at the highest point about two feet above the level of the adjoining prairie, and is composed to a great extent of the materials and debris from the old workshops. In it we found a considerable quantity of the clay dug from the banks of an adjoining ravine, which had never been moulded; some partly moulded, and sometimes mixed with straw, probably to be used in the coarsest articles. Also, fragments from what appeared to be the ovens in which the pottery had been baked. These fragments showed marks of fire, and were too clumsy and coarse to have been part of any household utensil, and were mostly in a heap in the highest and central part of the pottery.

The extent of the village was obscure, as the rank grass covered the ground for long ages, and nearly obliterated all traces of what once existed. That these villages were made by mound builders, appears evident from the appearance of pottery. Not only is the texture similar, but the ornamental markings are like those described by Foster and others. The peculiar figures seen on the vessel, figure 43, page 244, of Foster, are frequently seen. Also, the clearly defined marks as made by moulding the vessel on the inside of baskets. There were "ears" on fragments of the larger vessels, as if designed for bails.

These few traces of the ancient race which preceded our Indians show that the mound builders never visited this region in large numbers, or made very permanent towns. They were probably some of the remote settlements on the outskirts of their civilization, represented by our pioneers, provided our population should cease to extend its advance—a few of their tribes who chose to live where free range of territory was more congenial to their habits than the more densely settled portions of the Mississippi and Ohio valleys, where so many of their large mounds are seen.

RECENT DISCOVERIES OF FOSSIL FOOTPRINTS IN KANSAS.

BY B. F. MUDGE.

About the 1st of July, in crossing Kansas avenue, Topeka, we noticed, on a slab of the flagging, clearly defined footprints of reptiles. There was no hesitancy in referring the stone to the quarries of Crane & Dodd, of Osage. Taking the next train to that place, and carefully examining the quarries, a mile apart, we were well rewarded for our trouble.

The flagging at the new quarry consists of four principal layers, respectively one and a half, two, three, and four inches in thickness, interlaid usually by thin seams of soft shale. The flagging is fine-grained sandstone of close texture, coming out in slabs sometimes ten feet by twenty-five.

At the old quarry, the layers are not so distinct. The slabs, as they are quarried, are frequently inclined to split in thin sheets, some of which are marked by footprints. The best of the smaller ones were thus obtained, giving a fine specimen of footprint and cast.

The deposit is just above the middle of the coal measures, and about a dozen feet above the coal seam worked at Carbondale and Osage. The slabs or layers containing the footprints afford but few fossils, although there are numerous fucoidal impressions with ripple-marks. But immediately above and below the flagging, are calcareous strata containing abundant remains of the usual marine fossils of the period.

We have selected thirty slabs containing footprints, for preservation, there being a few others too poor to pay for removal. Most of these contain but one set of tracks, but several contain two of different species, and one has four sets.